

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 02298 140256Z

70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 SCI-06 INR-10 DODE-00 IO-13 RSC-01

EA-11 DRC-01 /062 W

----- 089536

R 131200Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 16

NAMRU TWO TAIPEI PRIORITY

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2298

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, OTRA, CE

SUBJ: PROSPECTIVE NAMRU-2 VISIT TO SRI LANKA

REF: NAMRU TWO DTG 110214Z SEP 73 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL INFORMS US OF PROSPECTIVE VISIT OF NAMRU TWO TEAM TO SRI LANKA TO CONTINUE RESEARCH BEGUN LAST YEAR WITH UNIVERSITY OF CEYLON. TEAM AND EQUIPMENT ARE TO BE BROUGHT IN SEPT 25 AND PICKED UP OCT 24 BY C-130. MESSAGE INDICATES STATE DEPT HAS NO OBJECTION TO SURVEY.

2. WE CONSIDER PROJECT VERY WORTHWHILE AND THAT IT IS THEREFORE IN OUR INTEREST FOR TEAM TO COME HERE. WE ALSO HAVE NO PROBLEM OURSELVES WITH C-130 TRANSPORT AND RECOGNIZE CONVENIENCE IT WOULD PROVIDE IN CONNECTION WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT INVOLVED. WE ARE NOT SURE, HOWEVER, WHAT REACTION OF SENSITIVE SRI LANKA GOVT WILL BE TO MILITARY AIRCRAFT ASPECT. CONSEQUENTLY, WE HOPE TEAM'S VISIT IS NOT CONTINGENT ON ABILITY TRAVEL TO AND FROM COLOMBO BY US MILITARY AIRLIFT.

3. BEFORE WE APPROACH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING FOLLOWING:

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A. DIRECT WORD FROM DEPT THAT IT CONCURS IN
NAMRU TEAMS VISIT;

B. ASSURANCE FROM NAMRU TWO THAT TEAM WILL CARRY
OUT PROJECT EVEN IF AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE IS REFUSED.

4. REQUEST COMMENTS SOONEST.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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Executive Order: GS VANHOLLEN
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